

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 CG-00

DOT-00 L-01 IO-04 SCI-02 CEQ-01 EPA-01 NSF-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /042 W

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2563

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A- DECONTROL ON RECEIPT

TAGS: TGEN, HK

SUBJECT: HONG KONG OCEAN PARK LTD. (HKOP) APPLICATION TO TAKE AND
EXPORT U.S. MARINE MAMMALS

REF: A. HONG KONG 1061; B. STATE 222818.

1. OUR READING OF IMPLICATION OF REFTEL B IS THAT CONSIDERABLE
FURTHER DELAY WILL BE EXPERIENCED BEFORE FINAL DISPOSITION OF
SUBJECT APPLICATION. MR. WWW. WILLIAMSON, GENERAL MANGARER AND
DR. D.D. HAMMOND, JOINT MANAGER FOR OPERATIONS OF HKOP HAVE
TOLD US THAT CONTINUING DELAYS ARE ALREADY HAVING SERIOUS EFFECT
ON THEIR SCHEDULING AND PLANNING OF PARK'S FACILITIES.

2. DR. HAMMOND ASSERTED THAT AN OFFICIAL OF NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE(NMFS) TOLD HIM AT APRIL 1974 MEETING OF
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AQUATIC ANIMAL MEDICINE THAT WHETHER
OR NOT A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WAS NECESSARY IN CASE OF NON-
ENDANGERED SPECIES WAS NOT AT ALL CLEAR. IN THAT CONNECTION MR.
WILLIAMSON SUGGESTED SCENARIO WHERE SEA LIONS AND HARBOR SEALS
WOULD BE "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE" GIFTS WITH HKOP PICKING UP
TRANSPORTATION COSTS. DR. HAMMOND REMARKED THAT THERE IS PROJECT
LED BY DRS. SAM RIDGEWAY AND J. SEEENEY AT U.S. NAVY UNDERSEA

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CENTER IN SAN DIEGO UNDER WHICH THESE ANIMALS ARE CAPTURED AND

STUDIED ON A CONTINUING BASIS. NAVY PROJECT HAS CAPABILITIES FOR PROVIDING ANIMALS AT MINIMAL ADDITIONAAL COST. HKOP IS ALREADY RECEIVING SEA LEOPARDS FROM NEW ZEALAND ON THIS BASIS AND EXPECTS TO RECEIVE DOLPHINS FROM AUSTRALIA. PRESENT COST OF SEA LIONS AND HARBOR SEALS IS IN RANGE OF US\$200-400 EACH, ACCORDING TO DR. HAMMOND. IF PERMISSIBLE UNDER TERMS OF 1972 LEGISLATION, FOREGOING MIGHT HAVE DESIRABLE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT WHILE, AT SAME TIME, SOLVING INCREASINGLY DIFFCULT PROBLEM FOR HKOP.

4. IF NO OTHER COURSE POSSIBLE, AND CONGEN IS APPROPRIATE PARTY TO DO SO, WE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATED BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF TYPE MENTIONED IN REFTEL B WITH HKG. WE HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED THAT HKG SEEK TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH U.K. WASHINGTON EMBASS6. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS REQUIREMENT FOR ANIMALS TO BE SENT IN EXCHANGE UNDER BILATERAL, THIS COULD REPRESENT A NEW PROBLEM. CROSS

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Message Attributes

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